

## Town Administrators April 2017 Monthly Report





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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Dear Mayor and Council,

After a lengthy and vigorous selection process for the Chief of Police position, Acting Chief Tracy Stone was selected to replace Chief Owen's as the Town new Chief of Police. Chief Stone has been with the Town of Bladensburg for over 32 years and has risen through the ranks. He started his law enforcement career with the Bladensburg Police Department as a dispatcher and has served in various leadership positions, most recently as the Acting Chief. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position and is well respected not only within his own department, but throughout the Prince George's County's law enforcement community.

Chief Stone is focused on incorporating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing initiatives into the Town's Police Department. He has already started to increase his departments outreach to the community through various programs and events to include, "Lunch with a COP" where officers go into the schools and have lunch with students. The lunches are designed to help students see beyond the uniform and learn more about policing efforts in a non-confrontational environment. Chief Stone firmly believes Policing goes beyond taking reports and responding to situations. One of his goals is to encourage all of his officers to engage the community through proactive outreach efforts; and to encourage community participation in Police initiatives.

Additionally, staff has been focused on drafting the FY18 budget to present to the Mayor and Town Council to consider for adoption. As part of the budget process, staff tied the adopted Strategic Plan to the proposed budget to include budgetary items for Public Safety, Economic/Redevelopment, and Infrastructure. Several budget meetings were held during April to include a staff budget meeting; two Mayor and Town Council budget work sessions; and a Public Comment Budget work session.

An additional Public Comment Budget work session was scheduled for May 4, 2017 to provide the community a second opportunity to provide input into the budget. This is the first time the Town will have held two separate Public Comment work sessions on the budget. In past the Town has only held one Public Comment work session during the budget process. The Town Administrator and Town Treasurer recommended holding two meetings for the public to better accommodate everyone's schedules and to provide more opportunity for public input into how their taxpayer's money is being invested back into the community.

As always, the Town staff and I will continue to make every effort to increase efficiencies in Town services as we serve the citizens of Bladensburg. On behalf of the Town staff, I hope you find this report to be an informative tool that assists you, the policy makers, in better serving the Town of Bladensburg, and provides transparency and useful information to the citizens and businesses of the community. I look forward to hearing any feedback you may have. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, and/or suggestions regarding this report.

## **CURRENT & UPCOMING PROJECTS**

### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

An Action Plan was developed and will be presented to the Mayor and Council during the May 8, 2017 Council Work Session. The Action Plan has been incorporated into the proposed FY18 Budget proposal.

### **TNI TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE**

During the TNI Transition Team's April 18, 2017 meeting, Ms. Patricia Parker, Executive Director for the Central Kenilworth Avenue and Riverdale CDC spoke to the team about the workforce training and mental health services they will be providing to the community in their new location. Services will include job placement assistance, written communication training, interpersonal skills training as well as mental health counseling.

The Team discussed reaching out to the University of Maryland and Prince Georges County's Community College to see if there might be an opportunity to work with their students as part of a curriculum project in developing a rebranding plan for the Town.

The Team selected Sharon Westman, a resident from Ward I and Rico Alexander, General Manager of Bates Trucking to serve as Co-Chairs of the TNI Team.

### **REDSIGING OF TOWN WEBSITE**

Staff is continuing to develop content for the website and working with MDA Technologies to develop an easy to navigate website. The goal is to have the site ready for beta testing in early May and final roll out of the new website in early June 2017.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES/INITIATIVES**

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The Town Park upgrade has been completed and was recently reopened for the public to enjoy.

We are very excited about the completion of the project and look forward to holding a ribbon cutting ceremony hopefully in June.

### **Rosina Baldi Park Update**

Representatives from Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning held a second community meeting to discuss the plans to incorporate a volleyball court as part of the update to the playground. The estimated start date for the upgrade to the park is fall of 2017 with the new playground equipment being installed in the Spring of 2018.

### **MEETINGS/EVENTS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Town Administrator was involved in the following meetings/events and community outreach activities:

1. Attended the Emerson House Tenant Council Meeting.
2. Attended the Parkview Tenant Council meeting.
3. Attended a meeting with Town representatives from Edmonston, Colmar Manor and Cottage City to meet with Bates Trucking and tour their new Bladensburg Headquarters.
4. Attended the B5 Business Roundtable meeting.
5. Attended the Port Town's Quarterly meeting.
6. Attended the Port Town CDC storm-water management planning meeting.
7. Attended the Rosina Baldi Park Community meeting.
8. Attended the Town's COP's Easter Egg Hunt event.

Additionally, along with Chief Stone, I attended the Maryland Municipal Leagues Police Chief Executive Associations Annual Training Conference. This year's conference focused on:

- Organizational Behavior and the Law Enforcement Community
- Implicit bias
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing